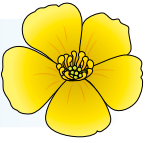


Buttercups® Theme Summaries 2018-2019



FunShine Express® follows a four-year rotation of themes and activities. Themes for Buttercups® and Fireflies® are coordinated. Schedule is subject to slight changes.

September Shape: Circle
 Color: Red
 Opposites: Happy/Sad

Hello and Goodbye: Many children will be entering new settings and some will be leaving home for the first time. This theme focuses on meeting the adults who care for them as well as playing with new friends, easing transitions away from families and back, and discovering fun new things to do.

Apples Everywhere: Children will enjoy pretending to gather bright red apples, tasting applesauce, and smelling warm, spicy apple juice.

December Shape: Star
 Color: Green
 Opposites: Day/Night

Hats Off to You: Toboggan caps, party hats, crowns, and other headgear will point children to make-believe play and winter fun!

Gingerbread and Jingle Bells: Your room will be filled with delicious scents, cheerful sounds, and interesting textures as children use their senses to explore holiday treats, music, games, and more.

October Shape: Triangle
 Color: Orange
 Opposites: Happy/Sad

Be Safe: Little ones need lots of help learning to be safe! This theme encourages them to see firefighters, paramedics, police officers, and other emergency workers as friends who keep them safe. Songs, rhymes, and games help them to learn basic safety practices in a fun way.

Wiggly Wonders: Get ready for creepy fun as children learn about spiders, snakes, and other wiggly, jiggy creatures.

January Shape: Heart
 Color: White
 Opposites: Hot/Cold

Riding Around: Vroom! Vroom! Children will push, pull, and ride as they investigate all kinds of real and toy vehicles.

Sparkles and Shivers: Bundle up and get ready to dig in the snow, pack it down, and stomp through it. If you live in warmer climates, the children will have fun exploring make-believe snowy environments.

November Shape: Star
 Color: Brown
 Opposites: Day/Night

Sleep Tight: Sleeping helps us grow, feel good, and stay healthy. Bedtime can be fun! The children will explore bedtime routines and learn about things to see and do at night.

Getting Together: Thanksgiving is a time to gather with friends and family. This theme focuses on ways to have fun with family and friends. Table manners, saying please and thank you, taking turns, and sharing all add to the pleasure of spending time with others.

February Shape: Heart
 Color: Pink
 Opposites: Hot/Cold

In the Mail: Valentine cards, packages, letters, catalogs, magazines and more arrive in the daily mail. Children will enjoy exploring all the exciting things postal workers deliver.

I Am Healthy: Developing healthy habits takes practice. This theme offers playful ways to encourage children to brush their teeth, wash their hands, use tissues, and eat healthy foods.

March

Shape: Oval
Color: Blue
Opposites: Wet/Dry

Silly Fun: Get ready for giggles with this theme, which focuses on things that make us laugh. Making faces in the mirror, playing peekaboo, and bouncing like monkeys on the bed are all part of the fun. We'll even celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss, the king of silliness.

Changing Weather: March often brings spring rains and warmer days. As the world wakes up from winter, children will be excited to see early flowers, tender green leaves, and a fresh, clean world.

April

Shape: Oval
Color: Yellow
Opposites: Wet/Dry

Up and Away: Look up with the children to see puffy clouds, birds, bubbles, kites, and even airplanes in the sky. Enjoy a variety of activities centered around things we see in the sky.

Spring Has Sprung: Easter is right around the corner and the children will be bouncing with anticipation! They will love learning about bunnies, ducks, chicks, and spring flowers!

May

Shape: Square
Color: Purple
Opposites: Big/Little

Baby Animals: Animals have babies, just as people do. The children will snuggle up for some fun while learning about cute baby animals.

When I'm Big: From household chores to jobs, little ones are fascinated by the activities of grown-ups! Children grow so fast at this age, and each milestone is a step towards independence. Celebrate achievements and focus on what's next for each child's development. This theme helps them discover why it's great to be getting bigger.

June

Shape: Square
Color: Black
Opposites: Big/Little

In the Meadow: This theme takes the children outdoors to learn about plants and animals in grassy meadows. They'll enjoy taking a close-up look at grass, the smell of fresh-cut grass, and watching and imitating creatures who live in the meadow.

Giddy Up and Go: Giddyap horsie! It's time to saddle up our stick horses and learn about ranch life from boots to barns.

July

Shape: Review
Color: Review
Opposites: High/Low

To Market, To Market: Grab your wallet and head out to buy food at the farmers market or the corner store. Children will enjoy pretending to shop for fresh summer produce and more.

Sports Talk – Big balls, little balls, and balls in-between are all part of the fun this month. Buttercups children will love playing in their own way with balls and other sports equipment.

August

Shape: Review
Color: Review
Opposites: High/Low

Playground Palooza: Celebrate the sizzling days of summer by visiting local parks, exploring playground equipment, experiencing messy outdoor art, and more.

Cookout Lookout: Fire up the make-believe grill and take advantage of August sunshine with barbecues and picnics.